III. *A Letter from the Reverend Mr.* Thomas Dent, *to Sir* Edmund King, *Kt. M. D. & S. R. S. Concerning a ſort of Worms found in the Tongue, and other Parts of the Body*, &c.

Leiceſter, July 2d. 1694.

SIR,

I Hope you will Pardon the Trouble of this, becauſe it will in a great meaſure ſatisfie you about that Diſtemper upon my Tongue, for which I have ſo lately had your Advice: The Obſervation is very Curious, and (I believe) not ordinary in the way of your Practice, if I tell you, that the chief cauſe of thoſe riſing Tumors fix'd upon my Tongue, proceeds from the Diſeaſe of Worms, concerning which I ſhall give you this following Account. In Reading Monſieur *De la Croſs's* Memoirs for the Ingenious, in the Month of *July*, 1693. Letter the 30*th.* Dedicated to the Honourable Mr. *Joſeph Ralphſon*, I found an Obſervation, which he has publiſhed to the World, concerning the Cure of this Diſeaſe of Worms by one *Sarah Haſtings*, who was very Famous in the Diſcovery of them in the Face, Gums, Tongue; and which ſhe managed with ſuch dextrous Art in the Operation, that ſhe took them out of any Part affected with a Gooſe-Quill. I refer you to Mr. *De la Croſs* in the forementioned place, concerning the Hiſtory of her Cures; one of which being in ſome reſpects like to my caſe, I was the more Curious and ſollicitous to enquire out, if there were any of the Worm Doctreſſes now in being; and hearing of one Famous at *Leiceſter*, I was reſolved to write to her, deſcribing all the Symptoms as plain as I could explain them: to which I had a return, that ſhe believed my Diſeaſe to

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be Worms; and being reſolved to try the Experiment, I took Coach for *Leiceſter*, where being come, my Doctreſs (Mrs. *French* by Name) no ſooner inſpected the Place, but inſtantly declared her Opinion, that the Diſtemper proceeded from Worms. The next day ſhe fell upon her Operation, which was performed in the Preſence of two Aldermen of the Town, Mr. *Gibbs*, my Lord of *Derby*'s Chaplain, and ſeveral others, when piercing the Part affected with a Lancet, ſhe drew ſome Blood, and ſoon after with a ſmall Spatula, and another Inſtrument with which ſhe opened the Orifices, ſhe pick'd out five or ſix Worms at a time, ſome of which I have here ſent to you for your more Curious Obſervation. She plainly ſhewed them to the Spectators as they came out of the Fleſh; they were all alive, and moved their Heads, ſomewhat leſſer than Ordinary Maggots. I can tell you, that in leſs than Eight days ſhe took out of my Tongue more than an Hundred Worms, all almoſt of the ſame bigneſs, except two very large ones, which (ſhe told me) were of a Cankerous Production: She took more than Thirty out of my Gums, which laſt Operation is her ordinary or daily Practice; Perſons of good Note reſorting to her from all Parts of the Country thereabouts. I was very Curious to Enquire out what Cures ſhe had done of this Nature; and I found a very Satisfactory Account from Perſons of ſome Quality and Note: And to be ſhort, though the Operation was very ſurprizing, and ſo will (I ſuppoſe) ſeem to you Incredible, yet neither I, nor any one preſent could diſcover any Fallacy, but all the plain dealing that Ocular Demonſtration can admit of to prove the reality of the Operation; which I my ſelf ſaw her perform upon ſeveral Patients while I was at *Leiceſter*. I cannot now have time to enter upon a Natural or Philoſophical Reaſoning about the Nature or Production of theſe Animals; I will leave it to your Ingeni-

Ingenious Thoughts, and the Enquiries of your Learned Society at *Greſham*. I and many others are ready to atteſt the Truth of what I write, nor would I willingly obtrude an Error upon the World. The Cures the Woman performs in picking out theſe Worms from all Putrefactive Ulcers, Tumors, and Sores, whether in the Faces, Noſes, Gums, or Tongues of ſeveral Perſons, prove, that ſuch Animals are generated in thoſe Parts. I have received ſome ſenſible good, and hope to have more Relief by her next Operation; and I do judge it very fit, that her dextrous Art ſhould be more curiouſly enquired into, that it may not be loſt, for the benefit of Mankind; I have wrote this more at large, becauſe I know you are ingeniouſly Curious in ſuch Matters. You or any others who are Incredulous, may have more full Satisfaction from Mr. *Newton*, a worthy Miniſter of the Town; and Mr. *Goodall*, and Mr. *Ludlow*, who are two of the chief Aldermen of the Town: And (I ſuppoſe) for a ſmall Advantage my Doctreſs will be ready to perform her Operation, if called to *London*; which will be proper for the further Satisfaction of the Ingenious, in the Number of which you will give me leave to continue your Admirer, as I am with all Reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt Humble and

Obliged Servant,

THO. DENT.